AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application with the listing of claims as follows:

Listing of Claims

1-170. (Cancelled)

171. (New) A method implemented by a computer server system programmed for collective evaluation of a set of entries by a plurality of participants, comprising:

the computer server system providing the plurality of participants access to the set of entries;

the computer server system receiving from a first subset of the plurality of participants first evaluations evaluating respective ones of the set of entries;

the computer server system receiving from a second subset of the plurality of participants second evaluations evaluating the first evaluations;

the computer server system deriving third evaluations of respective ones of the plurality of participants based at least in part on a plurality of the second evaluations;

the computer server system rating the entries based at least in part on the first, second and third evaluations; and,

the computer server system providing to a particular participant an output containing information that is based at least in part on the rating.

172. (New) The method as set forth in Claim 171, wherein the computer server system comprises a plurality of cooperating server computers each of which comprises a respective processor, mass memory, and at least one program, and wherein the computer server

system communicates with a plurality of computerized client devices controlled by respective ones of the plurality of participants.

173. (New) The method as set forth in Claim 171, wherein the entries comprise information submissions received from respective ones of the plurality of participants.

174. (New) The method as set forth in Claim 173, wherein the information submissions comprise ideas.

175. (New) The method as set forth in Claim 173, wherein the information submissions comprise inventions.

176. (New) The method as set forth in Claim 173, wherein the information submissions comprise at least one member of the group consisting of problems, solutions, evaluations, suggestions, opinions, comments, ratings, and remarks received by the computer server system from the plurality of participants.

177. (New) The method as set forth in Claim 173, wherein the respective ones of the plurality of participants comprise at least one member selected from a group consisting of a buyer, seller, consumer, developer, and evaluator of items to which the information submissions pertain.

178. (New) The method as set forth in Claim 171, wherein the plurality of participants includes at least one seller, and the set of entries includes a particular entry including information relating to at least one particular item that is being offered for sale by the at least one seller.

179. (New) The method as set forth in Claim 178, wherein the at least one particular item is a conceptual item.

180. (New) The method as set forth in Claim 178, wherein the at least one particular item is an electronic item.

181.   (New)   The method as set forth in Claim 178, wherein the at least one particular item is a virtual item.

182.   (New)   The method as set forth in Claim 178, wherein the at least one particular item is a physical item.

183.   (New)   The method as set forth in Claim 171, wherein the set of entries includes information relating to a set of items being offered for sale in an electronic marketplace facilitated with the support of the computer server system.

184.   (New)   The method as set forth in Claim 183, wherein the plurality of participants includes at least one seller, and the set of items being offered for sale are offered for sale by the at least one seller.

185.   (New)   The method as set forth in Claim 183, wherein the plurality of participants include a plurality of sellers and a plurality of buyers.

186.   (New)   The method as set forth in Claim 185, wherein the computer server system enables the plurality of sellers to post the information relating to respective ones of the set of items being offered for sale by respective ones of the plurality of sellers.

187.   (New)   The method as set forth in Claim 178, wherein the at least one seller is a second particular participant that is at least one of a member selected from a group consisting of an operator, steward, owner, and facilitator of at least a portion of the computer server system.

188.   (New)   The method as set forth in Claim 184, wherein the at least one seller is a second particular participant that is at least one member selected from a group consisting of an operator, steward, owner, and facilitator of at least a portion of the electronic marketplace.

189.   (New)   The method as set forth in Claim 186, wherein the computer server system enables the plurality of potential buyers to post information relating to respective ones of the set of items being offered for sale.

190.   (New)   The method as set forth in Claim 171, wherein the computer server system includes a database, the method further comprising:

the computer server system receiving from the particular participant a database query, wherein the database query enables the computer server system to identify a particular subset of entries that satisfy the query,

wherein the information contained in the output is related to the particular subset of entries.

191.   (New)   The method as set forth in Claim 190, wherein presentation of the information provided to the particular participant is performed at least in part by applying a cut-off threshold filtering algorithm that is based at least in part on the rating.

192.   (New)   The method as set forth in Claim 190, wherein presentation of the information provided to the particular participant is performed at least in part by applying a filter that is a function of a rating metric.

193.   (New)   The method as set forth in Claim 171, further comprising:

the computer server system receiving a query from the particular participant,

wherein the information contained in the output includes a particular subset of the set of entries responsive to the query.

194.   (New)   The method as set forth in Claim 193, wherein the computer server system providing to the particular participant an output comprises providing the particular subset of the set of entries based at least in part by ranking the particular subset of the set of entries in accordance with an algorithm based at least in part upon the rating of each of the particular subset of the set of entries.

195.   (New)   The method as set forth in Claim 194, wherein the algorithm is based at least in part on applying a cut-off threshold filter that is based at least in part on the rating.

196.   (New)   The method as set forth in Claim 194, wherein the algorithm is based at least in part on applying a filter that is a function of a rating metric.

197.   (New)   The method as set forth in Claim 184, wherein at least one of the respective ones of the plurality of participants is an identified participant.

198.   (New)   The method as set forth in Claim 184, wherein at least one of the respective ones of the plurality participants is an anonymous participant.

199.   (New)   The method as set forth in Claim 171, further comprising:

the computer server system receiving a query from the particular participant;

wherein the information contained in the output includes particular information relating to at least one of the set of entries in response to the query; and

enabling the participant to select amongst a plurality of presentation formats for presentation of the particular information.

200.   (New)   The method as set forth in Claim 171, further comprising:

providing the plurality of participants with a selection of a plurality of alternative rating algorithms;

receiving from the particular participant an indication of a selection by the particular participant of a selected rating algorithm from the selection of a plurality of alternative rating algorithms; and,

performing the rating at least in part in accordance with the selected rating algorithm.

201.   (New)   The method as set forth in Claim 200, further comprising:

receiving algorithm ratings from the plurality of participants each of which indicates the respective participant's rating of the plurality of alternative rating algorithms.

202.   (New)   The method as set forth in Claim 201, further comprising:

using the received algorithm ratings to enhance the efficacy of the rating.

203.   (New)   The method as set forth in Claim 171, wherein the plurality of participants comprises a community served by the computer server system.

204.   (New)   The method as set forth in Claim 203, further comprising dividing the community into sub-communities comprised of different respective groupings of the participants.

205.   (New)   The method as set forth in Claim 204, wherein the rating is performed by taking into account to which sub-community(-ies) the respective participants belong.

206.   (New)   The method as set forth in Claim 171, wherein the third evaluations serve as a metric of the reputation of respective ones of the plurality of participants.

207.   (New)   The method as set forth in Claim 171, further comprising:

deriving a plurality of domain-specific reputation metrics with respect to respective ones of the plurality of participants with respect to each of a plurality of domains; and

using the derived plurality of domain-specific reputation metrics in performing the deriving of the third evaluations, wherein a weight accorded to the second evaluations is based at least in part upon the derived domain-specific reputation metrics of the respective participants from whom the second evaluations are received.

208.   (New)   The method as set forth in Claim 171, further comprising receiving confidence level indications from respective ones of the plurality of participants based upon their own specified degree of confidence in their own respective first evaluations, wherein the deriving the third evaluations is performed at least in part on the confidence level indications.

209.   (New)   The method as set forth in Claim 171, wherein a plurality of parameters are used by the computer server system in performing the deriving and rating, the method further comprising providing the plurality of participants the ability to influence which and/or how one

or more selected ones of the plurality of parameters are used by the computer server system in performing the deriving and rating.

210.   (New)   The method as set forth in Claim 193, wherein the information contained in the output includes an indication of the rating of each of the entries in the particular subset of the set of entries.

211.   (New)   The method as set forth in Claim 191, wherein the presentation of the information provided to the particular participant is performed at least in part by a user device associated with the particular participant applying the cut-off threshold filtering algorithm.

212.   (New)   The method as set forth in Claim 192, wherein the presentation of the information provided to the particular participant is performed at least in part by a user device associated with the particular participant applying the filter.

213.   (New)   The method as set forth in Claim 210, wherein a user device associated with the particular participant, at least in part, uses the indication of the rating of each of those entries in order to control presentation of at least selected ones of the particular subset of the set of entries to the particular participant.

214.   (New)   The method as set forth in Claim 210, wherein the user device employs analytic and presentation logic resident on the user device in order to control the presentation, based at least in part by using the indication of the rating of each of the particular subset of the set of entries.

215.   (New)   The method as set forth in Claim 213, wherein the user device receives input from the particular participant, and uses the received input, in addition to the indication of the rating of each of the particular subset of the set of entries, to at least in part control the presentation.

216.   (New)   The method as set forth in Claim 215, wherein the input received from the particular participant includes a selection of alternative algorithms to be used by the user device, at least in part, to control the presentation.

217.   (New)   The method as set forth in Claim 216, wherein the alternative algorithms includes at least a first algorithm that is performed at least in part by applying a cut-off threshold filter, and a second algorithm that is performed at least in part by applying a filter that is a function of the rating of each of those entries.

218.   (New)   The method as set forth in Claim 171, wherein the first evaluations are implicit.

219.   (New)   The method as set forth in Claim 171, wherein the first evaluations are explicit.

220.   (New)   The method as set forth in Claim 171, wherein the second evaluations are implicit.

221.   (New)   The method as set forth in Claim 171, wherein the second evaluations are explicit.

222.   (New)   The method as set forth in Claim 171, wherein the evaluations are also entries subject to collective evaluation.

223.   (New)   The method as set forth in Claim 171, wherein a plurality of parameters are used by a user device associated with the particular participant to perform variations on the rating.

224.   (New)   The method as set forth in Claim 223, wherein the user device receives an input from the particular participant, and uses the received input to at least in part control the variations on the rating.

225.   (New)   The method as set forth in Claim 171, wherein the first and second subsets are overlapping subsets.

226.   (New)   The method as set forth in Claim 171, wherein the first and second subsets are non-overlapping subsets.

227. (New) A method implemented by a computer server system programmed for collective evaluation of a set of entries by a plurality of participants, comprising:

the computer server system providing the plurality of participants access to the set of entries;

the computer server system receiving from a first subset of the plurality of participants first evaluations evaluating respective ones of the set of entries;

the computer server system receiving from a second subset of the plurality of participants second evaluations evaluating the first evaluations;

the computer server system deriving third evaluations of respective ones of the plurality of participants based at least in part on a plurality of the second evaluations;

the computer server system rating the first evaluations based at least in part on the second and third evaluations; and,

the computer server system providing to a particular participant an output containing information that is based at least in part on the rating.

228. (New) The method as set forth in Claim 227, wherein the computer server system comprises a plurality of cooperating server computers each of which comprises a respective processor, mass memory, and at least one program, and wherein the computer server system communicates with a plurality of computerized client devices controlled by respective ones of the plurality of participants.

229. (New) The method as set forth in Claim 227, wherein the entries comprise information submissions received from respective ones of the plurality of participants.

230. (New) The method as set forth in Claim 229, wherein the information submissions comprise ideas.

231. (New) The method as set forth in Claim 229, wherein the information submissions comprise inventions.

232. (New) The method as set forth in Claim 229, wherein the information submissions comprise at least one member of the group consisting of problems, solutions, evaluations, suggestions, opinions, comments, ratings, and remarks received by the computer server system from the plurality of participants.

233. (New) The method as set forth in Claim 229, wherein the respective ones of the plurality of participants comprise at least one member selected from a group consisting of a buyer, seller, consumer, developer, and evaluator of items to which the information submissions pertain.

234. (New) The method as set forth in Claim 227, wherein the plurality of participants includes at least one seller, and the set of entries includes a particular entry including information relating to at least one particular item that is being offered for sale by the at least one seller.

235. (New) The method as set forth in Claim 234, wherein the at least one particular item is a conceptual item.

236. (New) The method as set forth in Claim 234, wherein the at least one particular item is an electronic item.

237. (New) The method as set forth in Claim 234, wherein the at least one particular item is a virtual item.

238. (New) The method as set forth in Claim 234, wherein the at least one particular item is a physical item.

239. (New) The method as set forth in Claim 227, wherein the set of entries includes information relating to a set of items being offered for sale in an electronic marketplace facilitated with the support of the computer server system.

240.   (New)   The method as set forth in Claim 239, wherein the plurality of participants includes at least one seller, and the set of items being offered for sale are offered for sale by the at least one seller.

241.   (New)   The method as set forth in Claim 239, wherein the participants include a plurality of sellers and a plurality of buyers.

242.   (New)   The method as set forth in Claim 241, wherein the computer server system enables the plurality of sellers to post the information relating to respective ones of the set of items being offered for sale by respective ones of the plurality of sellers.

243.   (New)   The method as set forth in Claim 234, wherein the at least one seller is a second particular participant that is at least one of a member selected from a group consisting of an operator, steward, owner, and facilitator of at least a portion of the computer server system.

244.   (New)   The method as set forth in Claim 240, wherein the at least one seller is a second particular participant that is at least one member selected from a group consisting of an operator, steward, owner, and facilitator of at least a portion of the electronic marketplace.

245.   (New)   The method as set forth in Claim 242, wherein the computer server system enables the plurality of potential buyers to post information relating to respective ones of the set of items being offered for sale.

246.   (New)   The method as set forth in Claim 234, wherein the computer server system includes a database, the method further comprising:

the computer server system receiving from the particular participant a database query, wherein the database query enables the computer server system to identify a particular subset of entries that satisfy the query,

wherein the information contained in the output is related to the the particular subset of entries.

247.   (New)   The method as set forth in Claim 246, wherein presentation of the information provided to the particular participant is performed at least in part by applying a cut-off threshold filtering algorithm that is based at least in part on the rating.

248.   (New)   The method as set forth in Claim 246, wherein presentation of the information provided to the particular participant is performed at least in part by applying a filter that is a function of a rating metric.

249.   (New)   The method as set forth in Claim 227, further comprising:

the computer server system receiving a query from the particular participant,

wherein the information contained in the output includes a particular subset of the set of first evaluations responsive to the query.

250.   (New)   The method as set forth in Claim 249, wherein the computer server system providing to the particular participant an output comprises providing the particular subset of the set of first evaluations based at least in part by ranking the particular subset of the set of first evaluations in accordance with an algorithm based at least in part upon the rating of each of those first evaluations.

251.   (New)   The method as set forth in Claim 250, wherein the algorithm is based at least in part on applying a cut-off threshold filter that is based at least in part on the rating.

252.   (New)   The method as set forth in Claim 250, wherein the algorithm is based at least in part on applying a filter that is a function of a rating metric.

253.   (New)   The method as set forth in Claim 240, wherein at least one of the respective ones of the plurality of participants is an identified participant.

254.   (New)   The method as set forth in Claim 240, wherein at least one of the respective ones of the plurality participants is an anonymous participant.

255.   (New)   The method as set forth in Claim 227, further comprising:

the computer server system receiving a query from the particular participant;

wherein the information contained in the output includes particular information relating to at least one of the set of first evaluations in response to the query; and

enabling the participant to select amongst a plurality of presentation formats for presentation of the particular information.

256. (New) The method as set forth in Claim 227, further comprising:

providing the plurality of participants with a selection of a plurality of alternative rating algorithms;

receiving from the particular participant an indication of a selection by the particular participant of a selected rating algorithm from the selection of a plurality of alternative rating algorithms; and,

performing the rating at least in part in accordance with the selected rating algorithm.

257. (New) The method as set forth in Claim 256, further comprising:

receiving algorithm ratings from the plurality of participants each of which indicates the respective participant's rating of the plurality of alternative rating algorithms.

258. (New) The method as set forth in Claim 257, further comprising:

using the received algorithm ratings to enhance the efficacy of the rating.

259. (New) The method as set forth in Claim 227, wherein the plurality of participants comprises a community served by the computer server system.

260. (New) The method as set forth in Claim 259, further comprising dividing the community into sub-communities comprised of different respective groupings of the participants.

261.   (New)   The method as set forth in Claim 260, wherein the rating is performed by taking into account to which sub-community(-ies) the respective participants belong.

262.   (New)   The method as set forth in Claim 227, wherein the third evaluations serve as a metric of the reputation of respective ones of the plurality of participants.

263.   (New)   The method as set forth in Claim 227, further comprising:

deriving a plurality of domain-specific reputation metrics with respect to respective ones of the plurality of participants with respect to each of a plurality of domains; and

using the derived plurality of domain-specific reputation metrics in performing the deriving of the third evaluations, wherein a weight accorded to the second evaluations is based at least in part upon the derived domain-specific reputation metrics of the respective participants from whom the second evaluations are received.

264.   (New)   The method as set forth in Claim 227, further comprising receiving confidence level indications from respective ones of the plurality of participants based upon their own specified degree of confidence in their own respective first evaluations, wherein the deriving the third evaluations is performed at least in part on the confidence level indications.

265.   (New)   The method as set forth in Claim 227, wherein a plurality of parameters are used by the computer server system in performing the deriving and rating, the method further comprising providing the plurality of participants the ability to influence which and/or how one or more selected ones of the plurality of parameters are used by the computer server system in performing the deriving and rating.

266.   (New)   The method as set forth in Claim 249, wherein the information contained in the output includes an indication of the rating of each of the first evaluations in the particular subset of the set of first evaluations .

267.   (New)   The method as set forth in Claim 247, wherein the presentation of the information provided to the particular participant is performed at least in part by a user device associated with the particular participant applying the cut-off threshold filtering algorithm.

268.   (New)   The method as set forth in Claim 248, wherein the presentation of the information provided to the particular participant is performed at least in part by a user device associated with the particular participant applying the filter.

269.   (New)   The method as set forth in Claim 266, wherein a user device associated with the particular participant, at least in part, uses the indication of the rating of each of those first evaluations in order to control presentation of at least selected ones of those first evaluations to the particular participant.

270.   (New)   The method as set forth in Claim 266, wherein the user device employs analytic and presentation logic resident on the user device in order to control the presentation, based at least in part by using the indication of the rating of each of those first evaluations .

271.   (New)   The method as set forth in Claim 269, wherein the user device receives input from the particular participant, and uses the received input, in addition to the indication of the rating of each of those first evaluations , to at least in part control the presentation.

272.   (New)   The method as set forth in Claim 271, wherein the input received from the particular participant includes a selection of alternative algorithms to be used by the user device, at least in part, to control the presentation.

273.   (New)   The method as set forth in Claim 272, wherein the alternative algorithms includes at least a first algorithm that is performed at least in part by applying a cut-off threshold filter, and a second algorithm that is performed at least in part by applying a filter that is a function of the rating of each of those first evaluations .

274.   (New)   The method as set forth in Claim 227, wherein the first evaluations are implicit.

275.   (New)   The method as set forth in Claim 227, wherein the first evaluations are explicit.

276.   (New)   The method as set forth in Claim 227, wherein the second evaluations are implicit.

277.   (New)   The method as set forth in Claim 227, wherein the second evaluations are explicit.

278.   (New)   The method as set forth in Claim 227, wherein the evaluations are also entries subject to collective evaluation.

279.   (New)   The method as set forth in Claim 227, wherein a plurality of parameters are used by a user device associated with the particular participant to perform variations on the rating.

280.   (New)   The method as set forth in Claim 279, wherein the user device receives input from the particular participant, and uses the received input to at least in part control the variations on the rating.

281.   (New)   The method as set forth in Claim 227, wherein the first and second subsets are overlapping subsets.

282.   (New)   The method as set forth in Claim 227, wherein the first and second subsets are non-overlapping subsets.

283.   (New)   The method as set forth in Claim 171, wherein at least one of the second evaluations evaluating the first evaluations comprise an evaluation relating to a single first evaluation.

284.   (New)   The method as set forth in Claim 171, wherein at least one of the second evaluations evaluating the first evaluations comprise an evaluation relating to at least a plurality of first evaluations received from a single participant

285. (New) The method as set forth in Claim 227, wherein at least one of the second evaluations evaluating the first evaluations comprise an evaluation relating to a single first evaluation.

286. (New) The method as set forth in Claim 227, wherein at least one of the second evaluations evaluating the first evaluations comprise an evaluation relating to at least a plurality of first evaluations received from a single participant